

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02907 180728Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /082 W
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R 161238Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9826
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2907

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, SP, IS
SUBJECT: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON GOS VIEWS REGARDING
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

1. DURING A COURTESY CALL BY THE DCM, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AFRICA AND CONTINENTAL ASIA (LOPEZ
AGIRREBENGOA) SPOKE IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY ON SPAIN'S POSITION
REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. A
CENTRAL POINT IN HIS EXPOSITION WAS THAT SPAIN HAD MAINTAINED
ITS LONG-HELD POSITION, AND HAD NOT TAKEN ANY STEP BACKWARD ON
THE QUESTION.

2. SPAIN CONTINUES TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AT A PROPITIOUS TIME HE SAID, BUT THERE
IS A PRE-REQUISITE. FROM THE ARAB POINT OF VIEW,
HE EXPLAINED, THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
SITUATIONS OF, FOR EXAMPLE, FRANCE, WHICH FROM A BASE OF
GOOD RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL HAS MOVED TO IMPROVE ITS
RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN RECENT YEARS, A
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PAGE 02 MADRID 02907 180728Z

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN ARAB EYES, AND THAT OF SPAIN,
WHICH BEGAN WITH GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS AND
FOR WHICH THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL,
ESPECIALLY IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MOVEMENT OF THE ME
QUESTION ON ISRAEL'S PART, WOULD APPEAR NEGATIVE TO THE
ARABS.

3. SPAIN WAS NOT INSISTING ON THE DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF ALL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HE SAID, BUT RATHER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ATTITUDE AND A PROCESS WHICH APPEARED REASONABLE TO PLACE THOSE PROBLEMS ON THE ROAD TO SOLUTION. SPAIN'S SPECIFIC CONCERNS CONTINUED TO BE, AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, TERRITORIES OCCUPIED SINCE 1967, AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS TO A "HOME" LAND", WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THE TERRITORIES. A CHANGE OF ISRAELI ATTITUDE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A MEANINGFUL PROCESS TOWARD SOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS, SAID LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA, WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR SPAIN TO MOVE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS.

4. REGARDING THE VIEW PRESENTED BY THE DCM THAT A POSITIVE SPANISH GESTURE COULD REDUCE ISRAEL'S SENSE OF ISOLATION AND THUS HELP INDUCE IT TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS OF ITS OWN, LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA SAID THAT THE SPANISH GESTURE WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY AN ISRAELI MOVE. OTHERWISE, HE SAID, SPAIN WOULD SACRIFICE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES, AND WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED IN ARAB EYES AS A POSSIBLE FACTOR FOR PEACE IN THE AREA. SPAIN WISHED TO MOVE AT A TIME WHEN ITS ACTION WOULD ENCOURAGE BOTH SIDES IN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITHOUT REDUCING ITS EFFECTIVENESS WITH EITHER. STABLER

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